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## A Collection of English Silver

**A** SERIES of six English coffee pots have been added to the Silver collection of the Museum. These with a number of other pieces of silver are the generous gift of Mr. Rodman Wanamaker, and have recently been put on exhibition. The series is interesting chiefly in showing the development of the coffee pot in Great Britain chronologically from the period of the Restoration to the present time. Before the time of Queen Anne pots of one shape were in use for coffee, tea, and chocolate; this was the well-known squat-shape and was taken from the Dutch styles. This remained in use scarcely a generation, rapidly giving way to a tall pot for chocolate and coffee, the early shape being retained solely for tea. The first of our series is of this first differentiated type: a gracefully tapered cylinder with a domed lid, plain curved spout set at right angles to an equally plain wooden handle. This pot was made by an unidentified London maker in 1712. Pots with the handles at right angles to the spout soon passed out of use in England, but are found even today on the Continent, especially where the beverage is intended to be served. The second pot made by James Farrar, London, 1729, shows the handle in the same plane as the spout, and the whole design slightly more sophisticated.

The next step in the development took place when the Huguenots brought to England the more finished artistry of the period of Louis XIV, and this change is at once recognized in the third pot by John Fossey, (the maker's name even reflecting his nationality), and in the fourth by John Lough. In the latter, however, we begin to see indications of the coffee pot shaping to the form of 1741, the type retained to the present day. The last two pots are of this typical shape, but show the flamboyant taste of the smiths in the middle of George III period when all designing in England copied the extravagant styles of the court of Louis XV.

The coffee pots of this period are supplemented by a pair of trays of 1787, and two pierced cake-baskets of 1771 and 1774, gradually coming down to the more simple styles of the last of the century represented by a Sheraton tea caddy by Thomas Robbins, London, 1808, decorated with delicate bright cutting. The collection is rounded out by a pair of covered sauce boats by Henry Cahwner, 1792, and a two-handled cup by John Schofield, 1796.

Mr. Wanamaker has also given two vegetable dishes of the ambassadorial period of George IV, made by George Storr who, for technical proficiency had few, if any, equals among the smiths of his day.

S. W. W.



SERIES OF ENGLISH SILVER COFFEE POTS